THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) According to information furnished by University Grants Commission, no such proposal has been received by the Commission from the Government of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Relaxation of "No construction zone limit" for beach resorts

68. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to relax the 'No construction zone limit' for Beach Resorts from 500 Metres to 200 Metres from the high tide line; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of beach resorts within 500 metres but beyond 200 metres from the high tide line was earlier allowed only in case of four areas namely, Puri-Konark, Goa, Madras-Mahabalipuram and Trivandrum. It was felt that similar dispensation should be given to other areas subject to compliance with the environmental guidelines laid down for this purpose.

Development of Forces in the East coast of Tamil Nadu

69. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what effective steps have been taken to deploy heavy forces in the volunerable east coast of Tamil Nadu, from Vedaranyam to Rameshwaram to contain the insurgency of terrorists from neighbouring country; and

(b) whether Government propose to station for ever a Military unit of all the wings of the defence forces to have constant vigil in the coastal area of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The State Government have taken steps to effectively contain the possibility of terrorist and other unlawful activities in Tamil Nadu arising out of the situation prevailing in Srilanka. These include the deployment of special police contingents and mobile parties and setting up of check posts. Besides the above, a contingent of CRPF has been deployed in Tamil Nadu and surveillance/patrolling by the Navy and Coast Guard in the Palk Strait have been intensified.

Indian Artificial Satellites Orbiting the Earth

70. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Artificial Satellites of India orbiting the Earth at present;

(b) what useful information the country is getting from these Satellites; and

(c) what is the impact of this information received from the Satellites on our programmes for improvement of socio-economic conditions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) there are eight artificial satellites of India orbiting the earth at present. Out of these, three satellites, namely, Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1A), INSAT-1B and INSAT-1D are operational now. Of the remaining Aryabhatta, Bhaskara-II and APPLE have completed their mission objectives while the mission of INSAT-1A and INSAT-1C has been closed.

(b) INSAT-1B and INSAT-1D are providing operational services in the areas of TV networking and broadcasting, Telephone Telegraphy communications, meteorological imaging and data dissemination, disaster warning services, emergency communications, rural/remote are a communications and radio networking. IRS-1A is used for providing information for management of natural resources and environment.

(c) The use of INSAT-1 satellites (INSAT) has been instrumental in rapid expansion of TV coverage in the country with more than 520 TV stations and 35,000 direct reception centres served by INSAT Network. INSAT is used for broadcasting educational programmes under the UGC Programme. The telecommunication service with 106 earth stations covering 119 telecom routes are served by INSAT. These are also used for connecting remote areas and offshore islands with the rest of the country: and a satellite based rural telegraphy service has been started on an experimental basis in the north-eastern region. INSAT has also been providing continuous pictures of clouds over the Indian Ocean region which is used for meteorological studies and weather prediction. INSAT also serves for quick and timely dissemination of meteorological data collected from various land and ocean based platforms in Indian region. The disaster warning system served by INSAT with about 100 platforms off the eastern coast, have been responsible for issuing timely warnings about cyclones etc., and these have enabled advance actions for evacuation and thereby saving precious lives during cyclones in the past.

The information generated from IRS-1A satellite are being used for ground water potential zone mapping in 442 districts in the country in a record time, which has increased the success rate to about 90 per cent as compared to about 40 per cent when conventional methods alone are used. IRS imageries have been used to prepare wasteland maps in as many as 146 districts from which data base of wasteland at village level could be generated for the first time in the country. Satellite remote sensing data has also been responsible for accelerating the forest monitoring methodology and biennial mapping of the country's forest resources by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has now been made possible. Satellite data has also been very useful in agricultural drought assessment: and already drought assessment bulletins are being generated regularly on a fortnightly basis covering 246 drought-prone districts and these provide useful information for the district authorities to take necessary steps. In view of the availability of satellite data, it is possible to generate in almost near real time, the flood area maps and make flood damage assessments. In the area of marine fisheries also, the use of information provided by the satellites had resulted in identifying zones which can yeild increased fish catch. For major crops, like wheat, rice, sorghum and groundnut, large area crop acreage and production estimations are being carried out using the satellite pictures. In addition to the above, satellite data is also being used for a number of other natural resources related studies like soil resources mapping, land use, soil salinity and alkalinity mapping, estimation of the flow of water into reservoirs, wild life habitat mapping and for deriving integrated approaches for combating drought.

उच्च शिक्षा पर वित्तीय राज सहायता में कमी

71. **श्री बलराम सिंह यादव :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 6 जुलाई, 1990 के "स्टेटसमैन" में "एक्सपर्ट्स फोर कट इन सबसिडि" (विशेषज्ञ